Compton Abbas Parish Council

Minutes of the recorded virtual meeting of the Parish Council

on Wednesday the 20th May 2020 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr T Clements – Chairman, Cllr J Coupe, Cllr J Low

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk)

There were 2 members of the public present on Zoom and Dorset Cllr Jane Somper

There was a three-minute public consultation period. Nothing reported.

**1/20. Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

**2/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations**

There were none.

3/20. Co-option for new members.

The Clerk asked if anyone present would like to be considered for a Councillor to Compton Abbas Parish Council.

Two people came forward, John Guttridge and Sarah Warren. Cllr Coupe proposed that both John Guttridge and Sarah Warren are invited to join the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Low, all in favour.

RESOLVED: for John Guttridge and Sarah Warren to be co-opted as new Councillors for Compton Abbas Parish Council (3/20 – no budgetary allocations).

4/20. Approval of governance statement and annual accounts

The Clerk tabled the following:

• The annual governance statement 2019/20

• The end of year accounting statements 2019/20

• The Asset Register 2019/20

• The Bank reconciliation 2019/20

The internal Audit will be completed by the end of June. These were proposed by Cllr Coupe and seconded by Cllr Low, all members agreed to approve the end of year accounts and the governance statement for the external auditor. The Chairman will be sent the governance statement for signing.

RESOLVED: to approve the end of year accounts and sign the governance statement (4/20 – accounts)

Cllr Coupe asked for the Council to agree that the year-end accounting statement, and accounts in general, shall be prepared in the form of income and expenditure, for the preparation and approval of governance statement, as per 17e of Compton Abbas Parish Council’s recently amended Standing Orders. All member agreed.

5/20. Declaration of interest and dispensations – error on agenda, already covered under item 2/20.

6/20. Approve minutes from 17th January 2020 and proposals agreed via email in April 2020:

The minutes and proposals via email in April were proposed by Cllr Coupe and seconded by Cllr Low, all agreed that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. They were duly signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes were approved and signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman (6/20 – no budgetary allocations required)

7/20. Officers and Chairman’s report

The Chairman had circulated the following report:

As the conditions of the Covid-19 lockdown have been eased we are able to start some of the budgeted activities that can be done by contractors working alone or at least being socially isolated. The two main areas are the playground and the telephone box.

The Chairman and John Guttridge met a potential contractor to quote for the maintenance items outlined in the 8 Year Playground Plan which was approved last financial year. The Parish Council hope to begin these activities in the very near future.

The Parish Council have tried to negotiate a further power supply with BT to illuminate the bus shelter next to the telephone box but have not been successful. The Parish Council now need to adopt the kiosk but need a plan of work to firstly bring it into a usable state and then implement a scheme to re-purpose it as it will no longer house a telephone. Cllr Low and Cllr Warren agreed to oversee this project. Cllr Coupe reported that she has asked for a quote to clean the phone box, this will be circulated once received.

8/20. Received report from Dorset Council representative

Dorset Councillor Jane Somper had circulated the following report:

**Village Halls Grants:** (that pay business rates), If your village hall has to pay business rates, even if they are £0 due to rates relief, then the hall is entitled to the £10,000 grant for government in the same way businesses are. This can be applied for by visiting - https:// [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/business-andemployers/coronavirus-business-support-grant-funding.aspx](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/business-andemployers/coronavirus-business-support-grant-funding.aspx).

**Prescription Collection and Delivery Service:** A fantastic group of volunteers are now collecting and delivering prescriptions for residents from Boots and Lloyds Chemists in Shaftesbury. There is a rota system where we collect on different days and then deliver to the villages If you require this service then please call me on **07710395359** and I will add your details to the list.

**Testing Centres** - A coronavirus testing centre has opened at the Creekmoor park and ride site in Poole and a temporary mobile site has opened in Weymouth and Blandford. These are all drive through facilities and you will be booked an appointment in the usual way through the .gov website - <https://self-referral.test-forcoronavirus.service.gov.uk>. The criteria of who can get tested is likely to continue to change, check the website above for up-to-date information.

**Household recycling centres re-opening:**  The Secretary of State announced that councils should plan the re-opening of household recycling centres. The HRC’s are re-opening from Monday the 11th of May but with some social distancing measures which are likely to create delays and difficulties for the patrons of the facility. If you are asked by a resident, please could you remind them that it is for essential waste disposal only and not waste that you can reasonably store on your premises.

**Helplines open over the weekend**; The Dorset Council helpline for vulnerable people (01305 221000) is open from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week. It is interesting to note that the amount of calls we receive at the weekend is significantly lower than weekdays.

Dorset Council are starting to plan the for further relaxation is in some of the lockdown restrictions such as re-opening of beaches, schools, etc while continuing to monitor and act on increasing volumes of traffic on roads.

**New Coronavirus helpline for parents and carers:** Dorset Council’s Educational Psychology Service has set-up the helpline to support those who are worried about their child or teenager during the lockdown.

The helpline number is: 01305 228300. It is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.45pm. Callers need to ring and make an appointment for a 30-minute phone consultation.

**The first virtual meeting** of the Cabinet was held on Tuesday 5 May at 10am. There is a lengthy report on our response to COVID-19, demonstrating how much has been done.

This page will hold all of the links to this and future virtual DC meeting - https:// [www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/committees/virtual-committeemeetings.aspx](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/councillors-committees-elections/committees/virtual-committeemeetings.aspx).

The next Scrutiny meeting is to be confirmed.

**Adults and housing**: Over the past week or so, 16 people in Dorset have become homeless (resulting from relationship breakdowns and people not having formal tenancy agreements) and Dorset Council have found accommodation for them. The housing team has accommodated more than 75 people since the COVID-19 outbreak began – about double our normal amount. While there has been an increase in calls to domestic abuse helplines nationally, we still have not seen this increase here in Dorset.

If anyone does contact, you who is a victim of domestic abuse or has become homeless. The message from Dorset Council and the government is very clear “you're not breaching lockdown rules and we are here and ready to help as normal”. More info.

**Homelessness,** https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/ coronavirus/housing-homelessness-and-the-rent-deposit-scheme.aspx.

**Domestic abuse** - https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-community/community-safety/ domestic-abuse/help-for-those-who-have-experienced-domestic-abuse.aspx.

**Schools**: Over the past week Dorset Council have been working closely with schools to bring more vulnerable children back into school and are also working on arranging IT support for vulnerable children. There are orders in for over 1000 laptops for year 10 students and those with social care needs from the national scheme.

**Foster Careers**: A significant number of our foster carers are shielding which affects our fostering capacity. There is a campaign live at the moment to recruit more foster carers – https://

news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/2020/04/20/new-campaign-to-find-foster-carers-for-dorset-children/

**Roads:** There was a 20 per cent increase in traffic on the roads over the weekend, so we are working with Dorset Police to remind people that we are still in lockdown and we all need to stay at home and avoid any non-essential journeys.

**Public Health Dorset:** The southwest continues to have one of the lowest rates of COVID-19 infection of any UK region and Dorset one of the lowest in the Region as well. Public Health Dorset are gearing up to help with more contact tracing work, particularly the complex cases.

**Project Shield** - Volunteer networks, everyone at Dorset Council would like to sincerely thank our local community groups for the incredible local response to COVID-19 over the last 6 weeks, we are truly proud of how our communities have come together to support each other.

Cllr Laura Millar (Dorset Council Cabinet member for Adult Social Care) has recorded a short video to thank them for supporting our most vulnerable (internally at Dorset Council we are referring to these people

as Dorset's most ‘valuable’) members of our community. Video here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGGU_39M_RE>.

**Project Shield - Volunteer networks Webinar:** Dorset Council has set up a Webinar for Volunteer networks to answer Questions and try and improve communication. The Webinar will run at - 11am - 12:30pm on May 15th. You will need access to this to be able to join. To book on the event, please email to laura.cornette@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk stating your name, email address and name of your COVID-19 Community response group and you will be sent a link to join the meeting. Please can we ask that only 1 person per community group attend this first webinar.

Cllr Somper stated that she fells procedures for meeting within Dorset Council and other Council may change due to the way meetings have successfully been held virtually.

Thank You - I cannot finish this report without thanking you all for the incredible way you have brought your villages together, how you have organised assistance where needed, signposted residents to the helplines, and all done calmly and with real kindness. It has been a heartening experience and I look forward to seeing you all face to face as soon as we all can.

9/20. Finance

To agree: Payment Schedule

The Clerk tabled the financial statement to the Councillors, with the Payment Schedule for April 2020 for the sum of £274.00. It was proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Coupe, all agreed for the payments on the payment schedule be paid, the schedule was duly signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Chairman.

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| Apr | Clerk Wages April | | £ 224.30 |
| Apr | Clerk expense march & April | | £ 49.70 |

RESOLVED: to pay the payment on the schedule to the total sum of £274.00 (9/20 current account)

10/20. Clerk Report

The Clerk stated that she is looking forward to working with the new and existing members of the Parish Council. She also thanked Dorset Councillor Jane Somper for keeping the Parish Council so well informed and up to date with matters from Dorset Council.

11/20. Items for next agenda and date of next meeting

Cllr Coupe asked for virtual working party meeting to be put on the agenda for consideration. Other agenda items will be agreed before the next meeting.

The Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th September, venue to be agreed nearer the time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18.59

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………

Website address http//: www.comptonabbas.org.uk

Should you wish to contact any Councillor please

use this address.

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